(a) the details of organization/departments under Government that recruit skilled and unskilled labourers for employment abroad;

(b) whether these organizations have feed back from the employees sent abroad through them, about the working conditions there; and

(c) whether Government would open more such recruiting agencies for selecting and providing placement to Indians willing to go abroad for work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Currently, five State Government Undertakings/Agencies have valid Registration Certificates issued under the Emigration Act, 1983 to recruit skilled and unskilled workers for employment abroad. Registration Certificates of four other State Government Agencies have expired as they have not applied for renewal.

(b) Feedback is received from time to time through Indian Missions and emigrant workers about the working and living conditions abroad.

(c) Government does not intent to open recruiting agencies. However, Registration Certificates are issued on application by individuals and organizations under the Emigration Act, 1983. There is no bar on setting up new recruiting agencies.

Women workers in the Country

†3178. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made regarding the number of women workers in the country;

(b) the number of women workers in organized and in unorganized sectors, respectively; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any action plan to improve the conditions of the women workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Union Primary Census Abstract—2001, the total female workers in the country are 127,220,248, which include main and marginal workers. Women employment in the Organised Sector as on 31.03.2002 is 49,35,400.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Several laws have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc. which provide *inter alia,* creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace. The various State Governments are the appropriate agencies for enforcing these laws.

Vacancies reserved for OBCs

†3179. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to form any panel to review the actions being taken to fill the vacancies reserved for backward castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Vacancies reserved for the backward classes are being filled up as per instructions issued from time to time.

Amendment to Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985

3180. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to remove the contempt power of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT);

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the proposed amendment will leave the CAT completely powerless in effectively discharging its obligations under the Administrative Tribunals Act; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.